The following awards may be given in any order to a recipient:

**Very Special Person (VSP) Award**
Given by individuals or PTA constituent organizations to recognize an individual or group.

**Honorary Service Award (HSA)**
Given to an individual or organization in special recognition of outstanding service to children and youth.

**Continuing Service Award (CSA)**
Given to an individual or organization in special recognition of ongoing or longtime service to children and youth. Recipient may or may not have received a California State PTA HSA Award.

**Golden Oak Service Award (GOSA)**
California’s most prestigious PTA award, given to an individual or organization that has made significant contributions to the welfare of children and youth in a school or community.

**Outstanding Teacher Award (OTA)**
May be given to a teacher in special recognition for outstanding service in positively impacting the lives and welfare of all children and youth in the PTA, school, or community.

**Outstanding Administrator Award (OAA)**
May be given to an administrator in special recognition for outstanding service in positively impacting the lives and welfare of all children and youth in the PTA, school, or community.

**Elected Official Honorary Service Award (EOHSA)**
May be given to a teacher in special recognition for outstanding service in positively impacting the lives and welfare of all children and youth in the PTA, school, or community.

These awards are available through a contribution to the California State PTA. Pins specific to each award are available at an additional cost.

**DONATIONS**
Donations may be given in any amount by PTAs/PTSAs or by individuals in tribute to a person, a group or in memoriam. An acknowledgement card or certificate, as requested, is sent when a donation of $10 or more is made.

The following are examples of ways to make a memorable presentation to the award recipient:

- Arrange for presentation of awards at a meeting or program, such as a Founders Day event or end of year meeting or luncheon.
- Present the award(s) using a poem, skit or other unique way to praise the honoree’s accomplishments. Be sure to mention that the donation made to the California State PTA scholarship and grant program in the honoree’s name helps fund PTA scholarships.
- Arrange for families and friends of the honorees to attend the presentation.
- Give a copy of the biographical presentation to the honoree. This could be a scrapbook page with pictures of some of the activities for which the honor was conferred. Assign a committee member to take pictures at the presentation for the honoree. Keep copies of pictures, programs and biographies for the PTA record book.
- After the event, write a summary for the chairman’s procedure book.
- Keep a record of all awards in a permanent file.

The awards committee should be:

- Appointed early in the term to allow time for planning and ordering awards.
- Composed of different members each year.
- Representative of the school’s community.
- Composed of an uneven number (five is suggested).

In addition to the HSA and other awards to honor service, other PTA pins may be given to represent an individual’s pledge of service to children and youth. These include the membership pin, the president’s pin, and the past president’s pin.

Members, by wearing a PTA pin, indicate that they have a share in this service. It is appropriate to wear the PTA emblem whenever one is representing the organization or serving it.

The California State PTA uses a basic design for the pins, to be worn as indicated:

- The membership pin may be worn by members;
- The president’s pin with the name of the unit, council or district PTA engraved across the bar is a symbol of the office and is worn by the president during the term of office and given to the succeeding president;
- The unit past president’s pin with one acorn, the council past president’s pin with two acorns, or the district PTA past president’s pin with three acorns may be worn by the appropriate past president upon completion of the term of office.

It is the responsibility of individuals to determine when, where and how many pins should be worn. Pins may be purchased through the California State PTA.

For complete information refer to the California State PTA Toolkit Scholarship and Grant Program Honorary Service Award and Donation Forms
Honorary Service Awards (HSA) are available to recognize the service and dedication of both individuals and organizations. Contributions to the HSA Program provide funds for the California State PTA Scholarship and Grant Program.

The recipients should be recognized for outstanding service to children and youth and are usually presented to others beyond the outgoing officers. Consider those who work behind the scenes, quietly and efficiently serving youth.

Individuals or organizations can make donations:

- As a contribution;
- To say thank you or to honor an individual for service given;
- In tribute to a person who already has received a Lifetime Achievement Award, Honorary Service Award, Continuing Service Award, Golden Oak Service Award, Outstanding Teacher Award, or Outstanding Administrator Award;
- In tribute to an organization or group of people for service given; or
- In memoriam.

The awards may be given only by unit, council, or district PTAs, or the California State PTA and should be presented by authorized PTA representatives at PTA-sponsored meetings or at functions of allied groups.

A person may receive more than one of any of these awards or may have more than one donation made in his/her name.

Anyone or any group may donate to the HSA program fund; the fund is not limited to contributions by PTAs.

For information contact the Honorary Service Awards Chairman at hsa@capta.org or 916.440.1985.

The mission of the California State PTA is to positively impact the lives of all children and families.

California State PTA Board of Managers, August 2013

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